

4264 '99 APR -6 AIO :35

March 31, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Docket # 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to make my opinion clear on labeling of irradiated food and food products. The FDA should retain the current labeling law, the current terminology of "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation," and the use of the radiation symbol on all irradiated foods.

Since the FDA concluded that irradiation is a "material fact" of processing of a food, and thus should be disclosed, and therefore, labeling should remain. Consumer acceptability, storage qualities and nutrients are affected. Some irradiated foods have different texture and spoilage characteristics than untreated foods. Most fruits and vegetables have nutrient losses that are not obvious or expected by the consumer.

As to the kind of label used, I believe that label should be large enough to be readily visible to the consumer, on the front of the package. The label contains important information regarding the processing of the contents. For displayed whole foods such as produce, a prominent informational display similar to that used for meats should be used (but containing the term "irradiation" and the radiation symbol).

Yours truly,

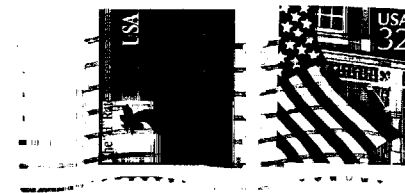
Tadashi Nakadegawa

cc: Senator Diane Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer

98N-1038

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